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ACTION EA-19

INFO SSO-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 CCO-03 SAL-01
SS-35 GPM-03 SP-02 SC-01 L-03 H-02 SAH-03 INR-07 NSC-10 P-04
AID-30 RSR-01 RSC-01 /125 W

O R 231130Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3825
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3889
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2243
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 775

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXIST[illegible] MARKINGS ☐
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE IN CAN THO AUGUST 23

1. JOINT PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN RALLY MORNING AUGUST 23 IN CAN THO WENT OFF WELL. MEETING WAS HELD IN OPEN SQUARE OF CAN THO MARKET AREA. CROWD OF APPROXIMATELY 3,000 ATTENDED, COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF MILITARY, CIVIL SERVANTS

AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. CROWD WAS INTERESTED AND ENTHUSIASTIC. THIEU AND KY DID NOT APPEAR. THEIR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE APOLOGIZED FOR THEIR ABSENCE AND WAS BOOED BY CROWD.

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2. TRAN VAN HUONG AND MAI THO TRUYEN DREW MOST ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD REACTION. HUONG'S THEME WAS THAT PEOPLE CAN NO LONGER TRUST GOVERNMENT AND THAT GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAVE USED THEIR POWER FOR PRIVATE GAIN. HE SAID THAT AS LONG AS MILITARY IN POWER CHANCES OF PEACE NOT GOOD.

3. TRUYEN STRESSED NEED FOR FAIR ELECTIONS, AND SAID THAT GVN HAS TAKEN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE IN CAMPAIGN. HE CRITICIZED PRIME MINISTER KY FOR HIS AUGUST 21 TELEVISION APPEARANCE AND REPEATED HUONG'S CHARGE THAT MILITARY MEN HAVE BEEN ISSUED TWO VOTER CARDS.

4. PHAN KHAC SUU AND PHAN QUANG DAN ALSO WERE GIVEN FAVORABLE RESPONSE, ALTHOUGH MUCH LESS ENTHUSAISTIC THAN THAT ACCORDED HUONG-TRUYEN. DR. DAN DREW APPLAUSE FOR HARSH CRITICISM OF INEQUITIES OF MILITARY DRAFT AND PROMOTION SYSTEM, CORRUPTION IN MILITARY LEADERSHIP, ETC.

5. HA THUC KY ALSO RECEIVED GOOD REACTION FROM CROWD.

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INSTEAD OF READING FORMAL SPEECH, KY AND NGUYEN VAN NGAI USED ENTIRE ALLOTED TIME FOR QUESTIONS. TRUONG DINH DZU CONCENTRATED ON PEACE ISSUE, AND DID NOT AROUSE AS MUCH CROWD ENTHUSIASM AS HE HAS IN PREVIOUS APPEARANCES. VU HONG KHANH, TRAN VAN LY, NGUYEN HOA HIEP AND NGUYEN DINH QUAT ALSO APPEARED. HOANG CO BINH AND PHAM HUY CO WERE REPRESENTED BY THEIR VICE-PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING-MATES.

6. FULLER ACCOUNTS FOLLOWS.

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